1/12/72

Dear Jerry,

Thanks for your yesterday's mailing of the 1/10 clips, from Newsday and what I take to be the L.I.Press, not clear. I was going to write you anyway, but not now. However, the volume of today's mail is a sufficient intrusion into my working plans that I begin without reading the rest, to tell you what I was going to anyway, and to begin with these two clips. Both have the angle every other story I've seen has, Oswald Alone, Oswald alone guilty. I suggest you consider the influence this may now have with the prospects for Howard's book, which says Oswald was Presumed Guilty, but wasn't. They had been very good. I have already written him to call on me for help if he needs it, for this was the immediate and obvious potential of all this play at this moment. I'll read those stuwies later. I'm glad to get them.

You spoke, perhaps not so intending, rather patronizingly last night about Cyrill's presumed magnanimity in overlooking all my great faults, all the evils I have done him, and, of course, with this great capacity he has for overlooking the human frailties of others, consulting me before he sees the pictures and X-rays. This is not the way you said it. This is not the way you meant it. This is an interpretation and the one I elect to make of what was in his mind.

You see, I do not consider myself possessed of any great magic. I do not think that if what he has done to this point is wrong he can make it right by talking to me. I have no magic wand to wave over him and suddenly undoe everything. If it was wrong without speaking to me, how does it become right with speaking to me? If you people think that what bugs me is some kind of personal insult, you are out of your minds. I am worried about the consequences. I see no great blessing now in making this stuff available. It has no possibility of adding materially to my knowledge, to what I have already written and has failed to appear only because those of us with the money to have printed it without paint are too damned stingy or too damned determined to steal credit for my work or too obsessed with their own omniscience, or other reasons. The only reason this staff is made availaable when there was no need to and when all interest in the subject is at its very lowest ebb is to hurt us, not to help us, as ought be obvious to a Mongolian idiot.

I will have to do some thinking before talking to Cyril at all. I am entirely without doubt about his technical competence. It is the highest. I am entirely without doubt about his purposes. They are pure. I have othe doubts besides of the consequences. But as you know I refused $10,000 when it required a compromise, I may also refuse to talk to Cyril unless it is on my terms, because unless he listens to reason and agrees to do this in one of a variety of limited and special ways of which I have already thought (without being sure any one of them is right), I may haveto disassociate myself from tha entire thing and wind up making the most vigorous attack on all those of the past who have gone off half cocked and made possible what is possible. This is the last thing I want. I am distressed that I have had to waste all the time I've had to wiping the asses of others and trying to minimize the potential of what has come to pass only because of their egos and abidcations and refusals to do what they could, I want to work, not do this kind of wasteful think they have made necessary. Understand I am not specifying who "they" is and I'm not pinpointing Vyril, who I do include. I will be happy to be wrong in my opinion of what can happen, but I have no reason to feel that way. And I will be unhappy at what can lead to my oermanent separation from a large part of the critical community. But I also think the current work will not suffer for it and my own capacity to work will be increased. You don't understand me if you think I'm going to be the captive of the ignorance of others or of those considering themselves kings and queens. Right is wight and wrong is wrong and personalities do not figure in this. So far as I am concerned, those of the past have been busily engaged in getting wealthier, have done nothing but hurt us in recent years, and this can be the worst of the hurts. You

will probably neither agree nor understand, and I'm not going to take the time for further explanations. I know my refusal to take all this assorted shit gives me the reputation of being abbrasive, bull-in-the-China shop and worse, but that also has been steadily fostered by some of those of whom I'm talking. When you get right down to it, the only people doing any real work on the case for years are three of us, the other two being Howard and Hoch. The rest of now, and I know this seems unkind because we all know that most of them mean so well, the dead hands of the past clamping up what can be done today and in various ways restraining and controlling it. I regard this as wrong as I regard their undeviating refusal ever at any time and on any issue to consult with the few of us not out of it.

The problem today is not whether Cyril deigns to consult with me. The problem is how can we prevent worse hurt. Nobody is talking a out that. His seeing this stuff is not of that character, not in and of itself. I have had to be working to diminish the possibilities of that, and only because of the stupidities of others, including him. I could use descriptions you might find less complimentary, and I would feel then justified. Which is also besides the point.

I simply must protect my rights in and to my book, as I must the great amount of all kinds of things it has cost us. I will, at whatever cost. You should know that although he says nothing of it, Cyril has had and read the two earlier parts and has had some of the contents of the third described to him by phone and in writing and has had a few samples of some of its new evidence. I must seek to achieve this protection not only because it is my right and my obligation to Lil and me but for a reason that may not have occurred to you recently, to protect the integrity of the work, to keep it from being misused. Therefore, I have not used any of it to counter Lattimer. I will not. I do not consider that anything of this sort could accomplish anything now as a one-shot anyway. There are other things that could be done, but without help I won't even suggest them. They would require such things as holding a press conference, which those with the means should have thought of and arranged long before this. We could have converted this into a plus with nothing we didn't have and without the use of any unpublished material. But as I tell you, whether or not they realize it, those who have money won't spend even a few bucks, will not do anything except what promotes themselves. What Cyril did on the Long John Show is but a tiny fraction of what could be done, if there was less ego and more understanding. This was perhaps the best single opportunity we had to score a few points. As long as I am broke and cursed it will not happen.

If there is more I should say, I simply have to stop trying to inform people because it really doesn't accomplish anything and I must find time to do my own work. Had it not been for this I'd have completed the little that has to be done on PM and at the very worst I could have turned to other work.

Hastily,